

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1997
HNC REVISION: 12 DECEMBER 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 11 MARCH 1998
HNC REVISION: 22 APRIL 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Suffolk County Air Force Base

SITE NUMBER: C02NY071200

LOCATION:

CITY: Westhampton Beach
COUNTY: Suffolk
STATE: New York

PROJECT NUMBER: C02NY071204

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 1

ASR RAC: 1

TAG RAC: 1

2. **POC'S:**

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT:

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Name: Richard L. Pike
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ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:

Name: Nick Iaiennaro
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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Suffolk County Air Force Base consisted of approximately 3442.81 acres of land located on Riverhead Road approximately two miles north of Westhampton Beach, New York. The site is situated in a relatively flat area just to the south of the Pine Barrens in the Township of Southampton and approximately three miles north of the Atlantic Ocean. A predominant portion of the former facility is currently

owned by Suffolk County, and the New York Air National Guard leases approximately 70 acres in the southwestern portion for the 106th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group. The area surrounding the facility is comprised of light industrial, commercial, residential and undeveloped lands. Residential areas are located primarily to the south and are heavily populated during the summer months.

4. SITE HISTORY:

(a) During the latter part of 1941, the Civil Aeronautics Administration began acquisition of parcels of land between the towns of Westhampton Beach and Riverhead, located in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, for the construction of an airport for training purposes.

(b) In the early part of 1942 it was recognized that the proposed field would be ideal for the construction of an Army Air Corps training and gunnery base for fighter aircraft.

(c) The air base was first activated on 17 May 1943 as a gunnery training base for fighter pilots and instructors. The fighter groups that were trained at this base received gunnery, bombing, small arms, rocketry, and chemical training before going overseas in World War II. The base was initially called the Suffolk Gunnery Training Center and Suffolk Airdrome. In August of 1943, the title became the Suffolk County Army Airfield.

(d) The air base additionally served, for a period, as a Combined Air Defense Training Base. Air, Signal, Signal Aircraft Warning Fighter Control, and Anti-aircraft units engaged in exercises in air defense and airdrome defense.

(e) On 31 October 1945, after the victory over Japan, the Suffolk County Army Air Field was inactivated. On 8 November 1945, the Suffolk County Army Air Field lands were declared excess to the needs of the Army Air Forces. Air field lands were declared surplus on 5 December 1945. Custody of air field lands was transferred initially to the New York District Corps of Engineers on 14 January 1946, and further to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation and War Assets Administration on 11 January 1946 and 16 April 1946, respectively. Disposal of transferred property occurred between 30 June 1946 and 6 March 1947, with a recapture clause present.

(f) From 1948 to 1951, the field was leased to a private citizen to service, repair, and fuel transoceanic air lines and cargo planes. One third of the base was further sublet to the

Arab American Oil Company as a training base for its personnel destined for Saudi Arabia.

(g) The Suffolk County Airport became a military installation once again in 1951. The recapture clause present upon transfer of Army Air Force lands was utilized by the Air Force to open the Suffolk County Air Force Base at the site. The base was reopened and served as an Air Defense Command fighter interceptor and air defense base, guarding New York from hostile aircraft attack, until its closure on 31 December 1969.

(h) The predominant leases for the base were conveyed to the original owners between 30 June 1970 and 15 May 1971. Former fee land and aviation easements were first transferred to the General Services Administration on 16 December 1970 and further deeded to the County of Suffolk on 12 July 1972.

(i) The Air National Guard became tenants of the area south of Cook Street on the west side of the airport in 1971, occupying 70 acres of building sites and aircraft working area. The majority of the remainder of the property is utilized as a public airport owned and managed by Suffolk County. The remainder of returned private lands serve for both commercial and private uses. Land usage is expected to remain constant in the future.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area A:

Size, Acres:	7
Former Use:	Demolition Range
Present Use:	Private Undeveloped Land
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Signal Projectors, Small Arms Ammunition (SAA), Incendiary Grenades, Ejection Seat Secondary Catapult Cartridges, 100lb General Purpose Bombs, Demolition Materials, 750lb Leaflet Bombs.

Area B:

Size, Acres:	55
Former Use:	Ammunition Storage Area
Present Use:	Private/Commercial Storage
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Uncontaminated
Type:	N/A

Area C:

Size, Acres: 5
Former Use: Shooting in Butt Range
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: 2.75" Rocket Motor Propellant,

Area D:

Size, Acres: 12
Former Use: Aircraft Arming Area/Shooting in
Butt Range, Dumpsite
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: 2.75" Rocket Motor Propellant,
Small Arms Ammunition

Area E:

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Kennel Area Dumpsite
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: Practice, High Explosive (HE) Smoke
Incendiary Bombs, Practice and HE
Rockets, Aircraft Cartridge
Actuated Devices, Incendiary
Grenades, Signal Cartridges, SAA,
Chlorine, CN, FS Smoke

Area F:

Size, Acres: 8
Former Use: Ordnance Storage Area (Circa 1943)
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area G:

Size, Acres: 18
Former Use: Airfield Dumpsite
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: Practice, HE, Smoke, Incendiary
Bombs, Practice and HE Rockets,
Aircraft Cartridge Actuated
Devices, Incendiary Grenades,

Signal Cartridges, SAA, Chlorine,
CN,FS Smoke

Area H:

Size, Acres: 3
Former Use: Rocket Storage/Assembly Area
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area I:

Size, Acres: 2
Former Use: Small Arms Ranges
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area J:

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Skeet Range
Present Use: USDA Administrative/Maintenance
Area
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type Ordnance: N/A

Area K:

Size, Acres: 4
Former Use: ADC Storage Area
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area L:

Size, Acres: 2
Former Use: Interim Rocket Storage Area
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area M:

Size, Acres: 2
Former Use: Weapons Calibration Area
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same

Ordinance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

Area N:

Size, Acres: 3,322.81
Former Use: All Remaining Lands
Present Use: County Airport/Private Lands
Probable End Use: Same
Ordinance Presence: Uncontaminated
Type: N/A

6. CURRENT STATUS: This Draft Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed by Rock Island District in September 1997.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A,C,D,E,G: EE/CA

Areas B,F,H through N: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. A RAC 1 Priority Site Visit was conducted on 22 April 1998 to determine if a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) was warranted and if the site still merited an overall RAC score of 1. Messrs. Kevin Healy, Lead Engineer and Michael Slovak, Safety Specialist, Huntsville Center, conducted this site visit and determined no TCRA is warranted and the site should remain a RAC 1 (See attached Trip Report).

b. This ASR was reviewed by the Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group on 11 March 1998 and they agreed with the ASR for an EE/CA in Areas A, C, D, E and G; NOFA for the remaining areas.

c. There was a question as to the liability of clean up in regard to the Dayton T. Brown Company, whether they were working as a civilian firm or was contracted to DOD. A FONECON was made to a Mr. Art Fuchs who worked for the company at the time and he stated that the company was under contract to the Department of the Navy at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, therefore, there is no PRP problem.

d. Threatened and endangered species of wildlife may occur on site. An on-site inspection by the appropriate federal and state personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities. Historical Sites of a "Cold War" significance may be present on the subject site. The State Historical Preservation Office should be contacted prior to removal Action.

e. Personnel should be aware of the presence of a heavy deer tick population during the months of April through October.

f. Access to site lands are relatively uncontrolled, with the exception of the 70 acre National Guard portion which has 24 hour security.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only